

Subject: INFO-HAMS Digest V89 #915
To: INFO-HAMS@WSMR-SIMTEL20.ARMY.MIL

INFO-HAMS Digest Tue, 21 Nov 89 Volume 89 : Issue 915

Today's Topics:

(#1 in series) Listen to store security guards catch shoplifters
Military Callsign Info Needed (2 msgs)

Date: 21 Nov 89 18:41:39 GMT
From: ux1.cso.uiuc.edu!tank!eecae!cps3xx!usenet@iuvox.cs.indiana.edu (Usenet file owner)
Subject: (#1 in series) Listen to store security guards catch shoplifters

In article <624@rsiatl.UUCP> jgd@rsiatl.UUCP (John G. De Armond) writes:
 %How many shoplifters do you think have access to this net, have a scanner,
 %and would take the time to monitor during the crime? And how many of those
 %do you think could not simply buy the frequency book?
 ^^^

or STEAL it!

In the rare case that original ideas are found here, I am responsible.
Internet: hendrick@frith.egr.msu.edu

Kenneth J. Hendrickson N8DGN
Owen W328, E. Lansing, MI 48825
UUCP: ...!uunet!frith!hendrick

Date: 21 Nov 89 15:56:48 GMT
From: usc!cs.utexas.edu!asuvax!hrc!valley!pfluegerm@ucsd.edu (Mike Pflueger)
Subject: Military Callsign Info Needed

In article <1399@raybed2.UUCP>, ewb@raybed2.UUCP (EUGENE BALINSKI) writes:
> I'm looking for some help in verifying some military aircraft callsigns
> heard on the NORAD channels on the east coast. I have the usual ones
> but 2 new ones "WASHBURN" and "ZEUSE" (a tanker), and one repeat offender
> "FRED" have recently shown up.
> [some stuff deleted]
>
> Gene WA1UXA

Well, I don't believe there is ANYTHING illegal or immoral about posting this; the information is readily available (both to you & me and the Soviets), and if the military didn't want to be heard, they'd be encrypted and/or use spread-spectrum or frequency hopping - they definitely would NOT send in the clear.

For all you anti-freedom-of-anything people, here goes. Dontcha just love America? This is precisely what makes us different (better), people!

----- cut here -----

Upper side band is used almost exclusively, except for some LSB VIP communications.

Skyking, Foxtrot, and EAM (Emergency Action Messages) appear to be related to the status of nuclear defense forces (coded messages are passed via clear voice). They are generally in one of two nets, SAC or GCCS (Global Command and Control System).

MAC is Military Airlift Command. VIP planes generally are out of 89th MAW (Military Airlift Wing).

Here are some of the more interesting (or common) callsigns. I'll assume the meaning of some of the more common acronyms is obvious. Any of the "1" callsigns signifying president aboard can be replaced with "2" for the VP. In some cases, there are 2 callsigns with the same meaning; I show them on the same line.

Callsign

Acrobat	- Andrews AFB
Agar + 2 digits	- EC-135N (Flying Command Post)
Crown	- White House Comm Agency
Dropkick	- SAC HQ, Offutt AFB, NE
Electric	- National Emergency Airborne Command Post
Edgy + digits, Sentry	- AWACS, Tinker AFB, OK
Army 1	- Army helo with President
Exec 1	- Commercial flight with President
Exec 1F	- Commercial flight with President's family
Fertile	- SAGE/NORAD network center, Ft. Lee, VA
Fivespot, Fletcher	- Commando unit designator
Flynest	- Nuclear & Chem/Bio Warfare Disaster Team
Golden	- General net Air->Ground for any TAC station
Goliath	- NORAD, Duluth, MN
Hilda	- MAC Command
Jolly + 2 digits	- SAR (Search and Rescue) helo (not on mission)
King + 2 digits	- SAR aircraft (not on mission)
Marine 1, Night Hawk	- USMC helo with President
Mac + digits	- MAC aircraft
Mainsail	- General net Air->Ground for any GCCS station
Pedro + 2 digits, Save	- Local rescue craft
Phantom	- MAC, European Theater Control
Ringmaster	- NORAD HQ, Cheyenne Mt., CO
SAM + digits	- VIP mission

01 = foreign head of state
86971 = Secretary of State
86972 = National Security Advisor

Skybird	- General net Air->Ground for any SAC station
Skyking	- General net Ground->Air for any SAC station
Spar, Afkai + 2 digits	- 89th MAW, VIP
Swan, Teal	- Weather recon
Tonight	- MAC Pacific Control
USAF + digits	- Flights over foreign territories
3 letter word + 3 digits	- Student on training mission
6 letter word + 1 digit	- Combat training mission
3-5 letter word + 2 digits	- SAC bomber or tanker
6-15 letter word or 2 words	- SAC ground station
Abnormal 10	- SAMTEC, Vandenberg AFB
Abnormal 20	- SAMTEC, Wheeler AFB

Some frequencies (KHz):

SAC A (Alfa):	11243
SAC B (Bravo):	11220
SAC Q (Quebec):	6761 (very busy and probably easiest to hear regularly)
SAC YQ:	11408
GCCS	6750, 6753
NORAD	9723, 11141, 11441, 14894
SAMTEC	10780, 13218, 17248, 20390

It's easiest to find military traffic in the following ranges:

6700-6900, 8950-9020, 11100-11300, 13200-13300

VIP aircraft tend to be found in the 11 and 13 MHz ranges. Also, almost all of the RTTY traffic is encrypted.

It may seem obvious, but if you take the spectrum (applies to VHF/UHF too), eliminate the KNOWN frequencies (e.g. ham, broadcast, public service, marine), what's left is generally what the military uses (although they can be found almost anywhere).

Also, spy stations (e.g. "numbers" stations, RTTY) like to hide in the skirts of a broadcast station signal, which makes them hard to find and copy.

So, what does this mean to WASHBURN looks like a SAC ground station, while ZEUS (correct spelling) and FRED look like either bombers or tankers. ZEUS is almost certainly a bomber. Fred is a Flintstone.

Have Fun!

73

--

Mike Pflueger @ AG Communication Systems (formerly GTE Comm. Sys.), Phoenix, AZ
 UUCP: {...!ames!ncar!noao!asuvax | uunet!zardoz!hrc | att!g!tephx!pfluegerm

Work: 602-582-7049
Packet: WD8KPZ @ W1FJI

FAX: 602-581-4850

Home: 602-439-1978

Date: 21 Nov 89 16:04:27 GMT
From: usc!cs.utexas.edu!asuvax!hrc!valley!pfluegerm@ucsd.edu (Mike Pflueger)
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> but 2 new ones "WASHBURN" and "ZEUSE" (a tanker), and one repeat offender
> "FRED" have recently shown up.
>
> Any information as to the aircraft type, home base, or mission would be
> appreciated. I believe that Zeuse is probably a KC-10 but the others
> are unknown. You can mail or post responses. Thanks
>
> 73
> Gene WA1UXA
>
> ...!cg-alta!raybed2!ewb
> ...!rayssd!raybed2!ewb
> ewb@raybed2.ray.com

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